

FALL + WINTER 2018

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CITY OF KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI, RESIDENT ENGAGEMENT MAGAZINE



MORE INNOVATION. MORE TECHNOLOGY. MORE ARTS. MORE CULTURE. MORE DATA.
MORE TRANSPARENCY. MORE GREEN. MORE ENGAGEMENT.



GREETINGS FROM Mayor James

After another long, hot midwestern summer, it's a relief to feel the cooler weather, see the leaves changing, and enjoy one of my personal favorites – football season. But as we all know, this time of year in Kansas City has far more to offer than tailgating and cheering for the Chiefs.

While we still have the weather on our side before winter sets in, I hope you'll make time to enjoy some of the exhibits and performances featured in the final weeks of Open Spaces, which closes at the end of October. This pioneering arts festival turned our City into an expansive art and performance space, featuring the work of acclaimed artists from around the country on display at sites throughout the City. The festival's "hub" is Swope Park, featuring weekends filled with more exhibits from local artists, as well as food and music.

Open Spaces celebrates art in all its forms, including a weekend – Oct. 12 through 14 – of high profile concerts at the Starlight Theatre from The Roots, hometown favorite Janelle Monáe, and Vijay Iyer Sextet. I hope you're able to get out and take advantage of at least an exhibit or performance from this amazing festival celebrating our City's love and appreciation for the arts.

Of course, this time of year isn't just about enjoying the outdoors or celebrating your favorite team. It's also time to get back to work, back to the classroom, and this year, back to the voting booth.

It's important you make your voice heard, regardless of whether it's a midterm, general or municipal election. Many issues critical to the future of our community will be decided by who shows up on Election Day: education, immigration, infrastructure, tax policy, health care, public safety – you name it. If you care about even one of these issues, be sure to learn who and what will be on your ballot, and make a plan to vote. Elections really do matter.

While voters go the polls to help shape tomorrow's laws and initiatives, Kansas City's next several decades will depend on the children currently in classrooms, daycares and playgrounds throughout the City. These children are our future workforce, next civic leaders and professionals who will be responsible for building upon the momentum and progress we've worked so hard to achieve.

For Kansas City to continue moving forward for decades to come, it's imperative we have an adaptable, skilled, and inclusive workforce. The only way we can ensure that future is to make sure all children living in Kansas City have access to a quality education, starting the year before kindergarten. Countless studies have shown that children who attend quality pre-K programs are far more prepared for kindergarten, and continue to out-perform their peers, leading to higher rates of high school and college graduation, lower incidents of crime, and higher earnings potential.

Currently, only 35 percent of our city's four-year-olds attend a quality pre-K program. This means nearly two-thirds of Kansas City's students will start kindergarten already steps behind due to a combination of lack of access and/or affordability of quality programs. This is not the way to build a skilled workforce ready for the future, and it's definitely not how we make sure Kansas City continues to innovate and thrive. If we want safer neighborhoods, a stronger regional economy, and a vibrant community, we must make sure ALL our children get a fair start in their education.

Making sure our kids have access to a quality pre-K education is simply the best, most important investment we can make in Kansas City's future. In April, we'll have the chance to decide whether or not we will commit to making sure our bright future becomes reality.

Thank you for being an active citizen in our community, and I wish you the best as autumn turns into the holiday season.



MAYOR SYLVESTER "SLY" JAMES

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ABOUT THE COVER: Construction workers laying concrete for new, ADA compliant sidewalks at Starlight Theatre, one of the many ongoing Year Two projects that are part of the GO KC bond Program.

THROUGHOUT THIS PUBLICATION, you will see the following color-coded dots accompanying each article. They represent which City goal the article addresses. Learn more about the City goals within the Citywide Business Plan at kcmo.gov/finance/citywide-business-plan.

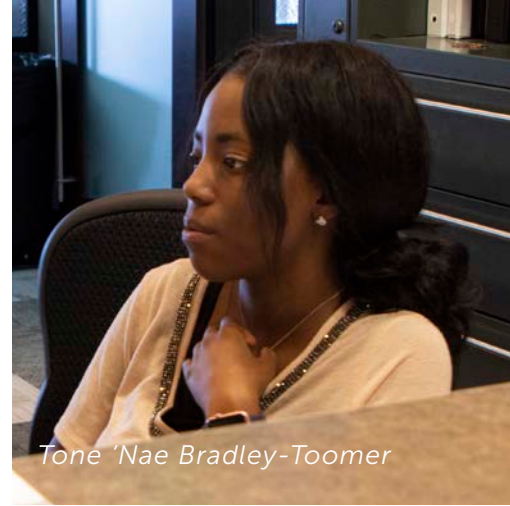
- Customer Service and Communication
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City of Kansas City, Missouri



L-R: Luan Luu, Chris Palmer, Yasmeen Mir, Taylor Holmes



Tone 'Nae Bradley-Toomer



L-R: Langston Gray, Eleanor Nash



L-R: Luan Luu, Taylor Holmes



Harmoni Moore



Chris Palmer



L-R: Mayor Sly James, Eleanor Nash, Langston Gray



L-R: Natalie Dameron, Nancy Le

Hire KC interns preparing today to lead tomorrow

WRITTEN BY: *Langston Gray*
+ *Eleanor Nash, Hire KC Interns*

If you ask Harmoni Moore to describe a typical day-in-the-life of a Hire KC intern, her initial answer may sound a bit vague. Nothing about her response is deceptive, but the truth is her days are rarely typical.

"My day to day is not really the same, because we do different things," Harmoni said. "I think that's one of the reasons why I like this internship so much."

Harmoni, a student at Howard University in Washington, D.C., spent the summer as a marketing intern at Aim4Peace in the Kansas City Health Department. Some days, Harmoni worked in the office on the iRise social media campaign, and other days she embraced the opportunity to attend community events so she could talk with people about violence prevention.

Each year, high school and college students like Harmoni come to work at City Hall and various other city departments to gain real-world experience and workplace confidence. The program typifies the commitment for youth development that has been a hallmark of Mayor Sly James' two terms in office. The Hire KC Youth program connects young people with professional opportunities and mentors – both of whom view this program as successful and essential.

"Jobs build a lot of character traits that you want citizens to have, and

we want a lot of good citizens in Kansas City, so we wanted [young people] working at the earliest opportunity," Mayor James said.

“

Everybody here
... plays a part in
something that's
much bigger than
them and just to see
their passion for
what they do – those
are connections that
I'll take with me.

HARMONI MOORE
HireKC Intern

Nick Dorn is the Director of Education/Learning at KC Social Innovation, which runs Hire KC Youth. Dorn says the purpose of the program is "to outfit young people ages 16 to 24 with workplace learning opportunities."

Placing the interns with the right divisions is not an exact science, but the positive results are worth the

effort. With that in mind, interns are steered toward companies, non-profits, or municipal government departments that match their strengths and interests. In 2018, there were more than 80 part-time summer interns assigned to 12 City departments. City interns get to experience many different skills on the job, working on assignments ranging from airport policing at the Aviation Department, video production in the City Communications office to fire rescue in the Fire Department.

Applying is easy enough for the students familiar with the program or those who have career advisers on campus to guide them along. Others have to be more industrious in order to toss their hats into the ring and reach the point where they, too, can apply through Hire KC Youth online job board.

The path for Nancy Le, Event Coordination Intern at the Office of Culture and Creative Services, was traditional. "Anyone who attends UMKC got an email, like, 'Hey, there's like a career fair, go check it out, it's free!'" From there, students can attend the Hire KC Youth job fair, held in March or April, and speak directly to employers from the public and private sector.

"I met my current supervisor [at the job fair] and she kind of sold this idea of this internship to me," recounts Chris Palmer, who interned in the Mayor's Office.

The program also has enough built-in flexibility to keep the door open so that some non-traditional applicants can enter. Just ask University of Illinois at Chicago student Taylor Holmes, another Mayor's Office intern last summer. "I tried to make the job fair, but my flight was delayed coming home from school," she said. "So I was happy to receive an email interview from Juan [Taylor's supervisor]."

As an intern in the Mayor's office, Luan Luu got a deep look into racial equity. As a result, Luu will forever be able to share stories about the time he helped spark a conversation on the long-term effects of racial discrimination. "Today, so far, I have compiled a list of articles about racial equity to post on the community alliance race and equity initiative," said Luan, a senior majoring in business at Park University.

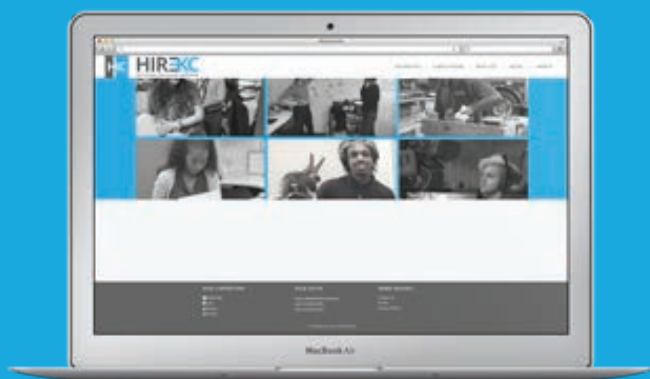
Luan's supervisor understands the values of internships. Juan Ramiro Sarmiento is Mayor James' Special Assistant for Strategic Initiatives and Public Policy. He supervises Luan and two other interns.

Sarmiento appreciates the contributions his interns made to jumpstart this project. The interns were on the frontline of a project that had no paid staff but needed substantial help getting off the ground. In the past, Juan was an intern for two members of Congress: "working for those people, one, inspired me, but two, that they even gave me the opportunity to get into the door did a lot for my career and where I am here today, as a 24-year-old policy advisor for Mayor James."

Although only a freshman at Pittsburg State University, Tone 'Nae Bradley-Toomer is a

veteran of sorts, having interned at the City for three summers. Most recently, she interned in Councilman Lee Barnes' office. Her tasks included desk duty and sitting in on lots of meetings. "When you go into the internship, city employees have high expectations for you already," she said. "You have the confidence to speak out during meetings or ask a question."

In between posting on Instagram and attending community events, Harmoni found inspiration in the passion her coworkers have for their work. "Everybody here at Aim4Peace plays a part in something that's much bigger than them and just to see their passion for what they do - those are connections that I'll take with me."



APPLY FOR AN INTERNSHIP!

Or host an intern in your business or non-profit

Apply for a job or post a position on the online job board



@HIREKCYOUTH



VISIT [HIREKCYOUTH.ORG](https://hirekcyouth.org)



Luan Luu



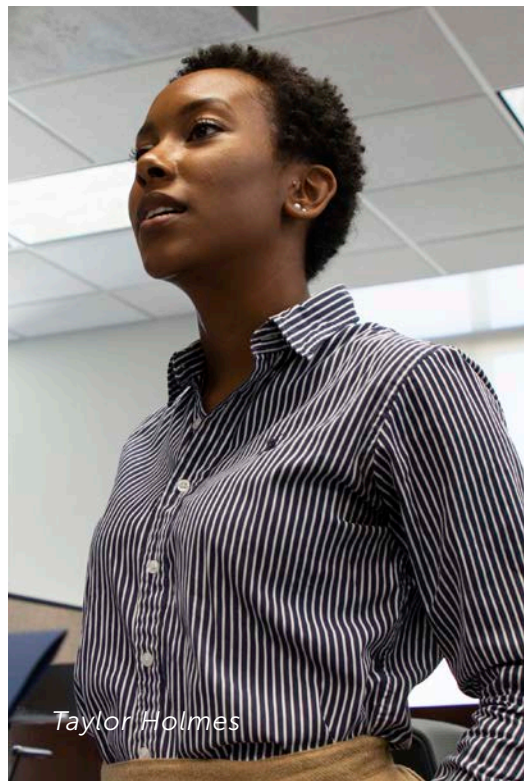
Nancy Le



Eleanor Nash



Eleanor Nash



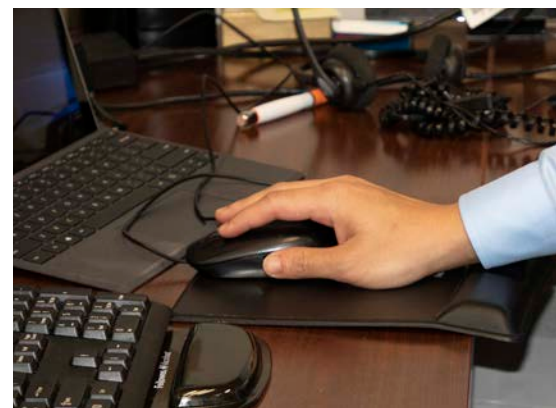
Taylor Holmes



L-R: Omari Tatum, Harmoni Moore



Langston Gray





L-R: Brandon Kowalke, Alyssa Dinberg, Ruanda McFerren

Cookingham-Noll Management Fellow mentors new colleagues

WRITTEN BY: *Alyssa Dinberg*

PHOTO BY: *Karen Lim*

A little over a year ago I stepped foot inside City Hall on my first day as a Cookingham-Noll Management Fellow eager to learn, grow and serve Kansas City. Today, I am a second-year fellow serving as a mentor and friend to our newest and brightest. Each year, the City conducts a national search for fellows and receives more than 175 applications from prospective candidates representing universities across the country. The Cookingham-Noll Management Fellowship is one of the nation's most established municipal fellowships. Created 70 years ago by City Manager L.P. Cookingham, the program routinely produces local government professionals who go on to promising careers in the public and private sector. We are thrilled to welcome Ruanda McFerren and Brandon Kowalke as the newest public servants eager to learn the ins and outs of local government.

BRANDON KOWALKE is originally from Beach Park, Ill., a suburb of Chicago. He received an undergraduate degree in Political Science and Psychology from North Eastern Illinois University and a Masters of Public Administration from Northern Illinois University. Before moving to Kansas City, Brandon worked for the City of Wheaton, Ill. Brandon describes his KCMO experience so far as "very welcoming. Everyone has been supportive when it comes to including the fellows and bringing us up to speed. It's been great to dive head first into projects and get a feel for what is going on in the City. There's been a lot of variety, be it drafting memos,

designing brochures, teaching residents in CEU (Community Engagement University), or facilitating community discussions there is always something going on. Having worked closely with 311 and the OPM (Office of Performance Management) team up to this point I've gotten a good feeling for the issues facing our residents as well as how we're collaborating internally to tackle those issues. It's been busy, informative, and exciting all in one."

RUANDA MCFERREN is a native of Fort Smith, Ark., and studied American Studies and Sociology at Hendrix College. After taking time off to work in admissions at her alma mater, she went on to receive Masters Degrees in both Urban and Regional Planning and Public Affairs from the University of Wisconsin. Ruanda chose the Cookingham-Noll Fellowship because "it really is the ideal way to learn the organization and functions of the City, top to bottom. Regardless of what department I might ultimately work in, having this deep knowledge of City functions will be exceedingly beneficial." In addition, Ruanda intentionally sought out jobs in the Kansas City area because it's closer to family and is clearly a city on the rise.

The Cookingham-Noll Management Fellowship is a two-year experience that offers recent graduates of Public Administration (or related) Master's programs a chance to take a "360-degree tour of the city." This includes rotations in the City Manager's Office, the Office of Management and Budget, and other departments of their choice. Fellows

attend and participate in several meetings each week with the City Manager and other City leadership throughout their time as a fellow. This 24-month term is full-time and paid.

“

Regardless of what department I might ultimately work in, having this deep knowledge of City functions will be exceedingly beneficial.

RUANDA MCFERREN
Cookingham-Noll Fellow

One of the longest running fellowships in the country, it's provided a great learning opportunity to more than 100 city management fellows to date. Our alumni have gone on to rewarding jobs within municipal, state, and federal government, as well as not for profit organizations.

For more information about the Cookingham-Noll Management Fellowship, please visit:

COOKINGHAMNOLL.WIXSITE.COM/COOKINGHAMNOLL.



New KCFD Chief happy he got to swing the right ax

WRITTEN BY: *Colleen Doctorian*

PHOTO BY: *Karen Lim*

Many little kids say they want to be a firefighter when they grow up. You can go ahead and count Kansas City Fire Chief Gary Reese among this group. But unlike his boyhood peers, Reese not only wanted to be a firefighter he also wanted to be in the Army - and that is exactly what he did.

Chief Reese has served KCFD for 23 years and has no intention of slowing down anytime soon. That, of course, is great news for Kansas City residents who have come to expect dedicated leadership from those who have guided one of the nation's top firefighting departments for 150 years.

City Manager Troy Schulte announced Reese's appointment in March, saying that Reese distinguished himself during a competitive process that included several capable candidates able to succeed former Chief Paul Berardi, who retired Nov. 11, 2017, after a 32 year career.

"Chief Reese brings fresh and innovative ideas to this top leadership spot," Schulte said. "His business approach, combined with his experience coming up through the department, will help us tackle the deployment and overtime issues while continuing to excel at public safety and firefighting."

After his time at Fort Leonard Wood, Reese was living in the KC area when one of his wife's co-workers mentioned he may want to apply for the KCFD Fire Academy. That suggestion turned into a life-

changing moment for Reese. He applied for the academy. He then received not one, but two rejection letters. Discouraged? Maybe, but Reese was nowhere near finished. For him, the third time proved to be the charm. He was accepted to a third class of recruits that year and that alone was an unusual occurrence because most years only have one or occasionally two classes of recruits.

Reese embraced the opportunity to get paid to swing an ax - a skill he acquired while living in the Pacific Northwest and supplementing his income with a job chopping logs to sell as firewood. Now he was given the chance to do it as part of fighting fires. But an injury that Reese sustained made him unsure if his career as a firefighter would be long-lasting. So he decided to pursue his MBA at UMKC just in case the fire thing didn't work out.

Four months after his injury, Reese was fortunate to be back fighting fires and doing what he enjoyed the most - serving the public.

As KCFD Chief, public service is a top priority for Reese and his objectives for the Department reflect that. Efficiency, meeting the needs of KCMO residents and improving diversity within the Department are just some of the goals the Chief is pursuing.

The types of calls that come into fire departments nationwide have shifted from primarily fire to medical over the last 20 years. Nearly 90 percent of calls for KCFD are

medical related.

"Many of those medical calls are also frequent users of our medical services," Reese said. "To address this increase in medical calls, we are working to develop a community paramedic program to assist these frequent callers."

The Chief is also working to train more personnel as paramedics. The Department merged with MAST in 2010.

"Cross training of our firefighting staff is essential to providing the best service to residents. I recognize that a large percentage of the City budget is allocated to public safety," Reese said. "We must use our resources in the most efficient way possible. We continue to review how we currently assign ambulances to stand-by duty at stations or to be out in the public."

Increasing the number of minorities and women and providing opportunities for civilians, especially students, to join the department are also high on the chief's priority list. The Department is working with Manual Tech High School and the Full Employment Council to provide more opportunities to employment with the Department.

"Even though I wasn't born here, KC is now my home. I have now lived here longer than I lived anywhere else," Reese said. "I hope to keep serving my hometown for many years to come."



Kansas City Fire Chief Gary Reese



Donna Maize, Assistant City Manager for Public Safety

A former firefighter's “a-Maize-ing” journey to City Hall

WRITTEN BY: Rod Richardson

PHOTO BY: Karen Lim

DONNA MAIZE is a strong, intelligent leader with a passion for public service. If you doubt it, just ask some of the folks who worked with her during her 26 years with the Kansas City Fire Department.

But her impressive record at KCFD is relegated to memory now that she has replaced her uniform with business attire appropriate for a high-ranking administrator for the City of Kansas City, Missouri. As Assistant City Manager for Public Safety, Maize leads critical projects to help ensure the safety of thousands of people.

But don't let her lofty new title lull you into thinking she is anything less than insightful, introspective and interesting.

Maize didn't set out to secure an office on the 29th floor of City Hall. No, even as a little girl she knew she'd follow in her father's footsteps and pursue a career with KCFD.

During that span, Maize racked up a list of exceptional career accomplishments:

- Developed and implemented \$35 million suppression fleet replacement project
- Developed and implemented \$2.6 million ambulance remount initiative, saving the City about \$4 million
- Prioritized for the department upgrading three facilities to gender-neutral standards

"I was fortunate to be born into and grow up with my KCFD family," Maize said. "Without my father, who instilled the values of service and

self-sacrifice, many mentors who provided valuable lessons along the way, co-workers who entrusted me with their safety, and specific chief officers who believed in me and let me fly; I wouldn't be where I am today. I've grown most through failures and facing adversity. But, I am forever humbled by and grateful to those great men and women who served KCFD before me."

Although she already had a bachelor's of science degree from the University of Central Missouri, Maize still started her KCFD career in 1992 at the bottom of the ladder. She ultimately became Assistant Fire Chief in 2014, managing a \$166.6 million budget among other duties.

Along the way Maize earned a reputation for having an innate ability to work collaboratively with colleagues inside and outside KCMO city government.

"Donna's experience, knowledge and leadership have been demonstrated throughout her career with the City and I'm sure that same level of excellence will continue in the future," said Gene Shepherd, former KCMO Emergency Manager.

So, what do you do after you've mastered one career but you remain willing to step out of your comfort zone? Well, in Maize's case, you accept City Manager Troy Schulte's offer to exchange your personalized office at the KCFD Communications Center for a more modest space at 414 East 12th St.

"There's always a little fear of the unknown when you're starting something new, but I like having that challenge," Maize said.

"Plus I saw it as a chance to use my Master's Degree (Public Administration, University of Kansas) in this new role."

Maize is likely to bring the same sense of thoughtful urgency to her new job as she did at KCFD, where she earned accolades for her ability to share leadership opportunities with others.

"She demonstrates a willingness to listen to perspectives of other agencies and she lives public service values in her stewardship of resources," said Erin Lynch, Emergency Services and Homeland Security Program Director for Mid-America Regional Council. "I appreciate her expertise, value her passion and sense of humor. I am proud to work with her and call her my friend."

Pride also factors into Maize's civilian life. A single mother of two daughters, ages 22 and 21, and a 9-year-old son, she's ever conscious of the example she sets for her children.

"My ultimate gauge of success is on those occasions when I know my three kids – Erica, Kylie and Evan – are proud of me," Maize said.

Although she doesn't see herself as a role model for young women interested in pursuing careers in male-dominated professions, Maize still has a unique perspective when asked to offer career advice.

"I would tell them to be true to themselves," Maize said. "I believe it's just a matter of how you conduct yourself. For me, it all comes down to work ethic. Just be yourself."

Resources for improving your computer skills and knowledge

WRITTEN BY: *Chris Hernandez*

DESIGN BY: *Jose Gonzalez*



It may sound slightly suggestive to ask someone if they need an online hookup. But if the question refers to getting low-cost internet or computers, it's an important question that can change lives.

The City's agreement with Google Fiber brought high-speed internet to 300 community centers, libraries schools and other public facilities across the City. Our Smart City program has created free public Wi-Fi in the downtown business district, which will soon expand to the eastside, and then citywide.

These projects help create better access to the internet. But many people still need help learning how to use technology to make their lives easier and better.

KC Parks offers computer classes to help people improve their skills. Call 816-513-7500 to ask about the current location and for information on how to sign up.

There are also several community organizations that work to provide low-cost equipment, and computer skills classes. Please see the chart on the next page for contact information.

Once you are online, the City tries to make it easier to do business by making many services available through our website. The goal is to save you time, and to save you a

trip to City Hall.

The number one source of city information on the internet is **kcmo.gov**, where you can check your trash day, report potholes, find a court date, pay a parking ticket, buy a pet license, and request services. Keep up with what's happening by watching City-created videos and programs, viewing the directory of social media, reading news releases or subscribing to over 24 subscription lists. Links to other City resources, such as the City Clerk's office (for agendas and dockets), and the Parks and Water departments also help residents find what they're looking for. **Kcmo.gov** is like having part of City Hall open 24/7.

If you don't want to wait on hold while calling the 311 Center, download the 311 app to your smartphone, or submit a request using the online form at **kcmo.gov/311**. You can even tweet **@kcmo311**!

Facts matter and numbers don't lie. The City embraces transparency with our open data catalog. Want to know where illegal dumping complaints are clustered? How about stray animal reports? Which neighborhoods are experiencing the most trash misses? Once you set up a customized view you can send a hyperlink or download the data to create your own charts and graphs. Simply go to **data.kcmo.org** and open a world of relevant stats to ponder.

The City is helping communities meet technology needs by donating surplus electronic equipment to The Surplus Exchange. It's called "digital upcycling," rather than just "recycling." The Surplus Exchange refurbishes the computers, which are then donated or made available at low-cost purchase by non-profit organizations to low income individuals. It also keeps electronic waste out of landfills. For information about buying, donating or repairing computer equipment, contact The Surplus Exchange at 816-472-8105 or **surplusexchange.org**.

Knowing how to do more online is how you can increase your digital literacy. And improving your digital literacy is a skill that will improve your life.

These are all important parts of the City's Digital Equity Strategic plan. That plan is the City's commitment to making the internet more accessible to all residents.

While City staff has accomplished many objectives to create a higher standard of digital equity, and won awards for its status as a "Digital City," we realize there is more work to do to connect residents to services. And we are committed to continuing to help our residents learn how to do more online.

Other resources are available by going to **digitalinclusion.org**, or by calling the KC Library's Tech Access Hotline at 816-701-3606.



NEED HELP WITH AN ONLINE HOOKUP? 🤔

Call the KC LIBRARY'S TECH ACCESS HOTLINE

816-701-3606

Check the **RESOURCES LIST:**

DIGITALINCLUSIONKC.ORG

CONTACT THESE COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS FOR COMPUTER CLASSES:

HISPANIC ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (HEDC)
2130 Jefferson Street
Kansas City, MO 64108
816-221-3442

CONNECTING FOR GOOD
3210 Michigan Avenue
Linwood Area Computer Center
Kansas City, MO 64109
816-559-7077

FULL EMPLOYMENT COUNCIL
1740 Paseo Boulevard
Kansas City, MO 64108
816-471-2330

VINEYARD NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
4301 East 43rd Street
Kansas City, MO 64130
816-921-5303

KC PARKS & RECREATION: 816-513-7500

NEED CITY HALL INFORMATION?

KCMO.GOV HAS THE ANSWERS 24/7.

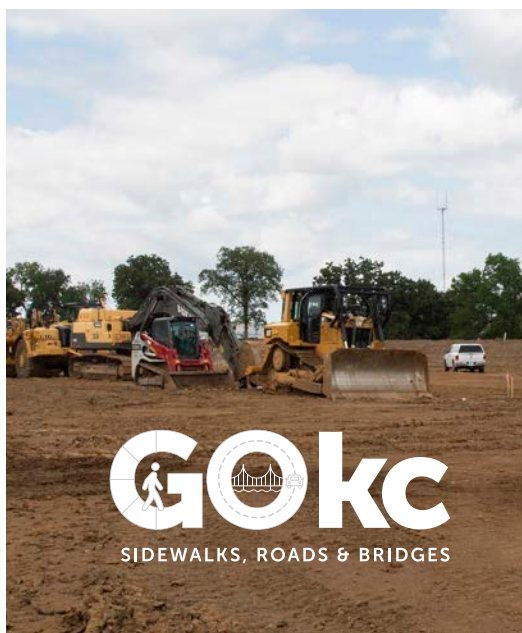
REQUEST SERVICES ONLINE: check your trash day, report potholes, find a court date,
pay a parking ticket, buy a pet license, and more.

NEED TO CONTACT 311? DON'T WANT TO WAIT ON HOLD?

REQUEST CITY SERVICES ONLINE:

Submit an online request
KCMO.GOV/311

Download the
311 MOBILE APP.



Second round of GO KC bond projects breaking ground throughout KCMO

WRITTEN BY: *Rod Richardson*

PHOTOS BY: *Jose Gonzalez + Karen Lim*

Year Two of the ambitious 20-year plan to invest \$800 million to improve the City's aging streets, sidewalks, bridges and buildings is moving right along at an impressive and productive pace. If all goes as planned, more than \$62 million will be spent to continue our multi-million makeover.

The second year of the GO KC program focuses on major road repairs, bridges and sidewalks, with some \$42 million dedicated to such projects. These long-deferred projects will be easy to recognize around town because they will carry the GO KC brand.

Kansas City voters approved \$800 million in bonds in April 2017 to fund a capital improvements program for streets, sidewalks, flood control and other infrastructure needs over the next 20 years. Capital improvement projects may include new construction or renovation of city buildings, reconstruction of streets, repairing or constructing sidewalks as well as making public areas compliant with the American Disabilities Act (ADA).

Starlight Theatre has long been an outstanding venue for memorable and entertaining events. However, patrons with disabilities have found it difficult to fully enjoy the facility because of upgrades needed to make it ADA compliant. So work started in January 2018 to construct accessible routes from the

parking lots, concession areas and restrooms. These improvements are largely completed.

The \$5 million upgrades at Starlight will continue into 2019, leaving behind a beautiful and iconic public stadium that's far easier for disabled customers to navigate.

One of the major selling points for residents was the promise to create a city-funded sidewalk repair program that would eliminate homeowner assessments. To that end, some \$150 million is being dedicated to sidewalks.

This completely changes the way the City repairs sidewalks. The bonds create the revenue needed to allow the City to pay for residential sidewalk repairs, rather than charging homeowners. This program will systematically evaluate, repair and replace sidewalks with the goal being to make it through two citywide cycles over 20 years. In Year Two, \$5 million is budgeted for sidewalks.

Of course, street improvements will again garner plenty of attention. Revamping Maplewoods Parkway from NE 96th Street to Shoal Creek Parkway is at the top of the Year Two agenda. Appraisals are complete and offer letters have been sent to all affected property owners. Once the utilities have been relocated, roadway construction can begin. The plan calls for this work to start

in spring 2019. The estimated cost for the project is about \$7 million.

Paseo Gateway is another major undertaking slated for significant work in Year Two. This \$14 million project is scheduled to get a \$4 million GO KC cash infusion so that right-of-way acquisition can be completed along with utility relocation by late fall. Roadway construction should begin in 2019.

But it's not just roads and bridges grabbing headlines in GO KC's second year. Public buildings will see about \$12 million in improvements, with \$4 million set aside for the Kansas City Museum. Demolition began on the basement about a year ago and renovation has moved to the first, second and third floors with installation of lighting, security, fire alarms, data and audio visual systems. Construction is scheduled to be completed in spring 2019 with exhibition fabrication and installation starting a few weeks later.

The decision to build a \$32 million state-of-the-art animal shelter was another popular element in this bond package. This public-private partnership is underway with about \$3.5 million budgeted for Year Two. Grading work has started and finalized drawings and plans are being reviewed by City Planning & Development.

For more information, visit **KCMO.GOV/GOKC**.



Transforming wastewater into something useful

WRITTEN BY: *Michael Grimaldi*

KC Water's Blue River Wastewater Treatment Plant is poised to move from aging infrastructure based on 19th-century technology to 21st-century technology with plans to implement an evolutionary new process.

The treatment plant uses 1960s-era incinerators to dispose of material collected from wastewater. Design work is underway to enable KC Water to transform waste into fertilizer clean enough to be used in farm fields and gardens; and into gas that can be used as fuel for industrial heating equipment or even to heat homes and businesses or to run vehicles.

By replacing decades-old infrastructure with new technology, KC Water also can help keep the air cleaner and reduce odors in the area.

"Actual final uses for the byproducts of the new process will be determined in the future," said Terry Leeds, KC Water Director. "The real breakthrough today is that instead of throwing away incinerated wastewater solids, we will be making useful products."

From raw sewage to productive reuse | Thermal hydrolysis process (THP) represents a major evolution in the way the City will handle wastewater from homes and businesses.

In times long past, raw sewage was simply drained to rivers and streams

to get it away from people as quickly as possible. Clearly, that wasn't good for the environment. Population growth and better scientific understanding proved that the old ways were not appropriate.

The present approach calls for removing solid waste from the wastewater stream. The separated water is treated before returning it cleanly to the river. The separated solids are incinerated.

It's an imperfect system. The incinerator ash needs to be disposed of, and there is only so much space in landfills. Incineration requires complicated air-quality control equipment that utilizes chemicals and large amounts of clean water to minimize air pollution.

Technological evolution | THP changes everything. The Blue River Wastewater Treatment Plant will evolve primarily from a waste disposal facility to a resource recovery facility.

THP is a two-step process:

- Solids separated from wastewater in settling tanks are pressure-cooked to about 165 degrees Celsius, sterilizing the biosolids.
- The resulting product is mixed with bacteria in a process known as anaerobic digestion. Essentially, bugs "eat" the stuff from the first step and create two clean, usable products:

biogas and biosolids. KC Water uses anaerobic digestion to treat a portion of solids, but the digesters are not large enough to treat all solids.

Communities and businesses nationwide use biogas to produce mechanical power, fuel boilers and furnaces, run alternative-fuel vehicles, or heat homes or businesses.

A variety of steps are necessary for THP, including sludge screening, sludge dewatering, pre- and final dewatering, intermediate sludge storage, and heat exchangers. The process will produce more ammonia that will be removed in a sidestream treatment process to maintain Missouri River water quality.

Managing for efficiency | Another factor that led KC Water to THP is a lack of expansion space at the Blue River Wastewater Treatment Plant site. With THP in the mix, the plant's anaerobic digester capacity will double without constructing additional anaerobic digesters at the site. This increase will allow outdated incinerators to be shut down and demolished.

THP gives KC Water the ability to recover phosphorus in the future. The project will better prepare KC Water for any future rules and regulations necessary to protect human health and the environment.

Solids from other wastewater treatment plants also are processed



at the Blue River plant and will be treated by THP in the future.

Following the recommendations of a 2017 Cost of Service Task Force, KC Water is pursuing state and federal funding through the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act. These outside funding sources typically offer favorable borrowing rates and minimize the impact of the THP

project on KC Water customer bills.

In the long run, we all win. THP is a better way to handle wastewater for KC Water workers, customers, and the environment.

Above: The Biosolids handling (outlined in red) at the Blue River Wastewater Treatment Plant near I-435 and Front Street in the East

Bottoms will be upgraded in a project getting underway this fall. Plans are to double the capacity of existing digesters and shut down antiquated incinerators. New thermal hydrolysis process (THP) equipment, similar to that installed by DC Water in Washington, D.C., will increase treatment plant capacity and enable KC Water to put solids removed from wastewater to productive use.



Courtney Wachal, Domestic Violence Judge

Kansas City's Domestic Violence Court only municipal court in nation to be named a mentor court by the U.S. Department of Justice

WRITTEN BY: *Benita Jones*

PHOTO BY: *Karen Lim*

The Kansas City Municipal Domestic Violence Court has earned the distinction of being named a Domestic Violence Mentor Court by the U.S. Department of Justice Violence Against Women Initiative. This designation also comes with a \$48,090 grant.

Courts from around the country will visit the Kansas City Domestic Violence Court to observe its best practices when it comes to increasing accountability for domestic abusers.

“

We continue to strive to learn the most effective methods of keeping victims safe and holding offenders accountable.

COURTNEY WACHAL
Domestic Violence Judge

The Kansas City Municipal Court serves the largest jurisdiction in Missouri and, as a result, handles the highest number of domestic violence and child abuses cases of any court in the State. During the past two years many improvements have been made to the domestic

violence court program. Since 2015, the most serious offenders, either based on prior history or the nature of charges, are placed on the Domestic Violence Compliance Docket. These offenders appear regularly before Domestic Violence Judge Courtney Wachal and report regularly to an Offender Accountability Officer, both of which monitor their progress on probation. Failure to follow conditions of probation results in sanctions. Sanctions are pre-determined by a uniform sanctioning grid, applied to all offenders equally.

“This is a great honor for the Municipal Court and for the City as a whole,” said Judge Wachal. “We believe our current model is one that is viable for many courts to implement; regardless of the population that specific jurisdiction serves. We continue to strive to learn the most effective methods of keeping victims safe and holding offenders accountable.”

The City of Kansas City has long been dedicated to efforts to stem domestic violence. In 1989, the Mayor's Task Force Against Domestic Violence created the Domestic Violence Victim Assistance Program. Those efforts led to the establishment of a dedicated domestic violence court docket and, in 1995, the creation of a permanent full-time domestic violence judge position. Currently the domestic violence court handles a variety of cases including assault,

harassment, stalking, order of protection violations, child abuse, neglect and endangerment and domestic violence related stealing, property destruction and trespassing cases. The City's Law Department also employs two full-time and two part-time domestic violence prosecutors and three victim advocates.

“The City and Court have worked very hard to strengthen the Domestic Violence team,” said Municipal Court Administrator Megan Pfannenstiel. “The unit includes a dedicated offender accountability officer and judge working side by side with the City Prosecutor's Office Victim Assistance Program to ensure the safety of its victims and while holding the defendants accountable. We are also very fortunate in the relationships between the domestic violence team and various community partners.”

Each day there are two domestic violence shelter advocates available to speak to the City's victims to ensure that they are receiving any assistance needed, legal or otherwise. The domestic violence team also works with Healthy Boundaries to provide low cost batterer's intervention evaluation and classes. This has allowed for increased attendance and participation.

Visit **KCMO.GOV/COURT** for more information.

Capital Projects Update



PUBLIC WORKS

The Kansas City Public Works department continues its mission to provide safe, efficient access for pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists with the advent of a variety of capital improvement projects this fall and winter.

- North Oak Trafficway will see major improvements this fall, from NE Indianola Drive to the city limits of North Kansas City. Upgrades include road reconstruction and new bike facilities connecting to a bike corridor in North Kansas City. Bus stop upgrades and new sidewalks are among other multimodal enhancements. The North Oak Trafficway improvements will be completed by late summer 2019.
- Another roadway reconstruction project in the Northland includes a new bridge over Interstate 29. The Old Tiffany Springs Road reconstruction project started in the spring and will include improvements from N Congress Avenue to NW Skyview Road. Roadway upgrades include new a four-lane thoroughfare with a sidewalk and trail that brings a key crossing at I-29 for the Route 152 Trail.
- Construction on the GO KC 22nd/23rd Street connector project wraps up in 2018. This project on the city's east side is the third phase of a major road

improvement project that has transformed 22nd and 23rd streets into a major collector and route to Interstate 70. This phase will realign and repave the roadway, adding curbs, sidewalks, gutters and storm and sanitary sewers on the roadway between Brooklyn and Chestnut avenues.

- Another GO KC project underway on the city's east side is the Beacon Hill Southwest Quadrant improvements. Upgrades to Forest Avenue and East 26th Street in the Beacon Hill neighborhood will wrap up in December 2018, offering new street pavement, streetlights, sidewalks, waterline replacement, storm sewer upgrades and more.
- Wornall Road is getting a much-needed makeover from 85th to 89th Streets in the Waldo neighborhood. This GO KC reconstruction project brings improved pedestrian access and new street pavement to this well-traveled north/south corridor on the city's south side. This project started in spring 2018 and will wrap up before spring in 2019.
- The final phase of a three-phase project on 135th Street through Martin City will wrap up soon. This GO KC project has revamped a once rural road, offering better multimodal access for the Martin City shopping and entertainment district on the city's south side.

The final phase of the project continues improvements on 135th Street from Wornall Road to Missouri Highway 150. The final phase continues includes include a new three-lane roadway, wider sidewalks, new streetlights and more.

KC WATER

Investments by KC Water customers are resulting in new water mains, sewer rehabilitation and stormwater management improvements throughout Kansas City.

Two projects of particular importance include a Northland pump station to be completed this fall and a wastewater treatment plant project just getting started.

The Shoal Creek Pump Station near Northeast Barry Road and Shoal Creek Parkway will have three pumps and room for a fourth. Each pump will have the capacity to push 4,300 gallons of water per minute, creating capacity to deliver more than 15 million gallons a day.

The project includes electrical work, pipes, valves, design features to blend in with the neighborhood, new trees and landscaping and two bio-retention basins to capture rain runoff. The facility is designed according to Envision sustainability design standards.

The Shoal Creek Pump Station, along with the Waukomis, KCI, Arrowhead and Englewood pump stations, combine to serve the Northland.

Meanwhile, design work is underway on significant wet-weather treatment expansion and improvements to the Westside Wastewater Treatment Plant, a major wastewater treatment facility in the West Bottoms.

The plant, which was built in the 1950s and expanded to include secondary treatment about 40 years ago, is being expanded to fulfill Kansas City's commitment to reduce overflows from combined sewer systems and prevent overflows from separate sewer systems. The commitment is required to meet elements of a Federal Consent Decree. This effort is known as the Smart Sewer Program.

Upgrades include new chemical treatment equipment; rehabilitation of hydraulic systems; new clarification basin and equipment, and additional disinfection capacity.

As an outcome of these improvements, the plant will be able to process up to 70 million gallons of wastewater per day, vs. the current 40 million gallons a day of wet weather flows.

This and other improvements to Kansas City's sewer systems creates a cleaner, healthier environment for the community and improve the quality of the water that is returned to area waterways.

AVIATION

Kansas City International Airport - Taxiway B Rehabilitation

Taxiway B is one of two parallel taxiways serving Runway 1L-19R. This construction phase removes and replaces the concrete surface

pavement and underlying base and subbase courses of Taxiway B. Additional improvements include replacement of taxiway in-pavement and edge lighting fixtures and associated lighting cables, replacement of airfield directional signs, pavement shoulder rehabilitation and pavement markings.

Kansas City International Airport - Post Gate 28 Redesign

Secure airfield vehicle entry points at airports are called Post Gates. Deficiencies that occur now at Post Gate 28 are due to the lack of space necessary for proper "stacking" of vehicles. There will be new additions such as a new guard building (sized appropriately and to proper code and standards), a checkpoint canopy to protect the area from weather for improved scanning of vehicles, adequate pavement lanes and new rejection lanes. These additions will allow the new checkpoint to be more efficient, while having a dedicated entry and exit facility for Aviation staff.

Charles B. Wheeler Downtown Airport - Removal of Taxiway Delta

This project will mitigate hot spots (locations on an airport movement area with a history of risk for collisions) on the airfield and improve safety by removing taxiway Delta and re-grading the area. The holding position markings on taxiway D for Runways 1-19 and 3-21 are within each respective runway safety areas. By identifying hot spots, it is easier for users of an airport to plan the safest possible path of movement in and around that airport. By ensuring that aircraft surface movements are

properly coordinated with air traffic control, pilots add another layer of safety to their flight preparations.

Charles B. Wheeler Downtown Airport - Relief Well System Rehabilitation Project

The Kansas City Aviation Department maintains nearly 50 relief wells at the downtown airport. These relief wells are part of the levee system that protects the airport from flooding. The relief well system rehabilitation has been an ongoing project for the last three years. During this time, multiple relief wells have been inspected, tested, cleaned, refurbished, and several new relief wells have been installed. Several of the relief wells requiring work are located in the runway obstacle free zones and the aircraft arrival/departure corridors. Therefore, Runway 1-19 will be closed. In order to minimize runway closures, the relief well work in these critical areas is coordinated with the Re-Seal Runway 1-19 Project and accomplished during the weekend runway closures.

For a complete rundown of capital projects, visit [KCMO.GOV/KCMORE](https://www.kcmo.gov/kcmore).



Our Award-winning Rose Garden

WRITTEN BY: Heidi Markle



It was an award-winning summer for the Laura Conyers Smith Municipal Rose Garden in Loose Park. In July, the Kansas City Rose Society announced that the garden was one of several to receive the World Federation of Roses Societies Award of Garden Excellence.

Established in 1995, the Award of Garden Excellence recognizes

rose gardens around the world that achieve excellence not only in visual beauty, but that possess significance from historical, educational and horticultural perspectives.

Highlighted in the nomination were the many important roles the garden plays for Kansas City residents. Not only does the garden serve as an iconic public space that is open to all, it is a gathering place where people come to celebrate and enjoy nature and the arts and a place for learning, enriching the eyes and minds of those who visit.

The Rose Garden also received the 2018 Club Horticultural Commendation from The Garden Club of America via the Westport Garden Club.

Kansas City's Municipal Rose Garden is the realization of a dream

that began in 1931 by a group of women, led by Laura Conyers Smith, when they established the Kansas City Rose Society and created the public rose garden in Loose Park. The first garden contained 120 rose plants. There are now about 3,000 roses of about 150 varieties in the 1.5-acre garden. In 1965, the garden was officially named the Laura Conyers Smith Municipal Rose Garden. The garden is maintained through a partnership between the Rose Society and KC Parks.

For more information on Kansas City parks, nature centers and gardens, visit **KCPARKS.ORG**.



Stay safe during winter weather!

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PARKING



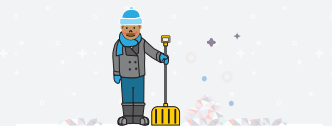
Park on **north** or **west** side of the street
Do not park on signed emergency snow routes

WAIT 1 DAY



Wait **1 day** after snow stops falling
then **call 311** or tweet to **@kcmo311**

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR



Please remove snow and ice
from any sidewalks on your property

Kansas City Race & Equity Initiative

WRITTEN BY: Mayor Sly James

A note from Mayor Sly James:

Kansas City is stronger and more vibrant than ever. Yet, while we've accomplished so much, we're still recognized as one of the most segregated cities in the country. As a community, we must address the history and systems which have resulted in perpetual inequities among races and cultures in our community.

These racial inequities are a result of systems and institutions that have enabled some to get ahead and others to be left behind. These inequities will continue to persist unless we as a community are willing to talk about how race impacts every aspect of an individual's life.

That's why the Mayor's Office, City Manager's Office and the Community Alliance for Racial Equity (CARE) are working to implement the Government Alliance on Race and Equity's guidelines for

advancing change in racial equity:

1) Normalize Conversations, 2) Organize, 3) Operationalize.

In the months I have left in office, it's my goal to begin to normalize conversations about racial equity through a series of community conversations with local experts and educators to help our community develop a common framework and language.

We hosted our first event to a packed theater at the Kauffman Foundation in late August, appropriately called "Starting the Conversation." Speakers presented a definition of racism and data on racial disparities in life expectancies in our city.

In addition to supporting these larger public events, CARE is taking an active role in organizing in the community, providing education and resources for individuals and organizations to begin addressing

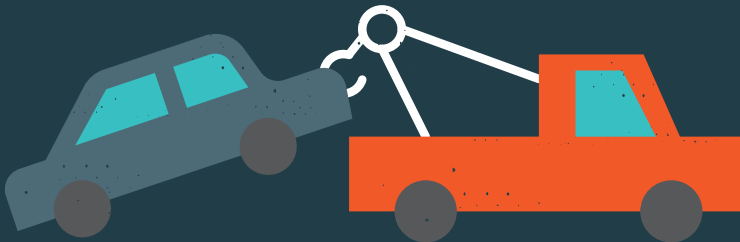
the biases that exist in their own networks.

At City Hall, we're forming the Race and Equity Action Team (REAT) that will be tasked with formulating and implementing a Race and Equity Action Plan for city government that will begin the process of operationalizing.

We're working toward positive, measurable change in our community – starting with a conversation that is part of a broad initiative designed to continue well past my time in office. This process won't be easy – far from it – but it's essential to moving our city forward. We'll be continuing the conversation at our next event, Socialization & Bias, taking place Tuesday, Oct. 16 at 6 p.m. at the Mohart Center. I hope you'll join us.

Find out more about how to get involved at KCMAYOR.ORG/RACEANDEQUITY.

City of Kansas City, Missouri TOW SERVICES



The Tow Services Division works with the Kansas City, Missouri Police Department and surrounding municipalities to keep Kansas City's streets clear of abandoned, inoperable and unlicensed vehicles. Many of these vehicles are stolen property or in dangerous condition. Vehicles not claimed by the owner or held as evidence are auctioned off once a month.

KCMO.GOV/TOWSERVICES • 7750 E FRONT ST • AUCTIONS EVERY THIRD TUESDAY OF THE MONTH
MONDAY TO FRIDAY, 9AM-6PM + SATURDAYS, 9AM-3PM • 816-513-0688



City's successfully demolishes hundreds of dangerous buildings

WRITTEN BY: John Baccala

It began as what City Manager Troy Schulte called a "hair-brained idea we cooked up one afternoon."

Two years later, that hair-brained idea has taken a bite out of blight across Kansas City and led to the elimination of nearly 900 homes and commercial structures from the city's dangerous buildings list.

Mayor Sly James, Schulte and other city and neighborhood leaders recently gathered outside a refurbished east side home to celebrate the success of the city's two-year, \$10 million demolition initiative. In 2016, the City began an ambitious program to either rehabilitate or demolish a backlog of buildings. Bringing even some of these dilapidated, distressed properties back to life was well worth the effort, Mayor James said.

Smiling throughout the mayor's remarks was Laurie Schwab. Her once-blighted KCMO Land Bank

home, now beautifully rehabbed, was the backdrop for the occasion. Schwab bought the home during the Land Bank's \$1 home sale and transformed it into the showpiece of the South Blue Valley Neighborhood. It was one of many strategies the city manager and the city's Neighborhoods and Housing Services Department (NHSD) used to address the dangerous buildings issue.

"Troy Schulte deserves a ton of credit for his thinking, his processes and the way he attacks these kinds of issues," James said. However, Schulte was even quicker to credit NHSD and dangerous buildings staff for their hard work.

"They are changing the face of this City," Schulte said, "and making neighborhoods worthy of reinvestment. We're saving neighborhoods and bringing people back to the urban core of the City."

When the program began in June 2016, nearly 820 buildings and homes were on the list, but the number swelled to 895 because of emergency demolitions due to fires and collapses. Teardowns typically cost between \$8,000 and \$10,000 per structure, but firms like Kissick Construction and Industrial Salvage & Wrecking generously demolished more than 60 buildings free of charge.

Unfortunately, the dangerous buildings issue never completely goes away. By late summer 2018, the new list totaled nearly 400. Still, Schulte vows to continue the city's 'fight on blight,' but for just a fleeting moment, he wanted to enjoy the accomplishment and the difference it has made in Kansas City.

"This is a great day," Schulte exclaimed.

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Don't keep it to yourself, share it with the city auditor!



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Postal Customer

LEAF AND BRUSH

Set-out Date

SET OUT ALL SACKS AND BUNDLES BY 7 A.M.

Trash day	NORTH REGION	CENTRAL REGION	SOUTH REGION
MONDAY	Monday, Oct. 29 + Monday, Dec. 3	Monday, Oct. 22 + Monday, Nov. 26	Monday, Nov. 5 + Monday, Dec. 10
TUESDAY	Tuesday, Oct. 30 + Tuesday, Dec. 4	Tuesday, Oct. 23 + Tuesday, Nov. 27	Tuesday, Nov. 6 + Tuesday, Dec. 11
WEDNESDAY	Wednesday, Oct. 31 + Wednesday, Dec. 5	Wednesday, Oct. 24 + Wednesday, Nov. 28	Wednesday, Nov. 7 + Wednesday, Dec. 12
THURSDAY	Thursday, Nov. 1 + Thursday, Dec. 6	Thursday, Oct. 25 + Thursday, Nov. 29	Thursday, Nov. 8 + Thursday, Dec. 13
FRIDAY	Friday, Nov. 2 + Friday, Dec. 7	Friday, Oct. 26 + Friday, Nov. 30	Friday, Nov. 9 + Friday, Dec. 14

CURBSIDE COLLECTION

- ▶ Same day as trash/recycling collection
- ▶ Curbside by 7 a.m.
- ▶ Limit of 20 sacks and/or bundles
- ▶ Paper sacks only.
- ▶ Brush bundled 4' x 2' with twine only
- ▶ No duct tape
- ▶ No trash
- ▶ Call 311 within 24 hours to report a miss.

FALL 2018

